

6.12 WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING

6.12.1 Purpose

To establish goals and procedures for City departments to reduce solid waste and increase recycling, consistent with Seattle's Solid Waste Plan.¹

6.12.2 Organizations Affected

All City departments are affected.

6.12.3 Definitions

Composting: Controlled aerobic decomposition of organic materials such as grass clippings, brush, weeds and food scraps, yielding a product that can be used as a soil conditioner.

Recycling: Separating certain materials (such as paper, metal, glass, and plastic containers) from the solid waste stream for re-manufacturing into usable or marketable materials.

Solid Waste: All putrescible and nonputrescible solid and semisolid wastes including, but not limited to, garbage, rubbish, yard waste, ashes, industrial wastes, infectious wastes, swill, demolition and construction wastes, abandoned vehicles or parts thereof, and recyclable materials. This includes all liquid, solid, and semisolid materials that are not the primary products of public, private, industrial, commercial, mining, and agricultural operations. Solid waste includes, but is not limited to, sludge from wastewater treatment plants, septage from septic tanks, wood waste, dangerous waste, and problem wastes.

Waste Reduction: Reducing the generation of solid waste by reusing materials, re-designing processes, or reducing the toxicity of solid waste.

6.12.4 Policy

The City shall reuse its goods and recycle its solid waste in a manner that complies with all applicable laws and regulations.

The following priorities for the management of solid waste, followed in descending order as applicable,² shall guide the City's operations:

- Reducing waste by avoiding unnecessary purchases;

6.12.5 Procedures and Responsibilities

The Director of the Executive Services Department (ESD) shall be responsible for:

- Designating a Citywide recycling coordinator to manage and maintain recycling programs for City departments;
- Developing and managing contracts for recycling services for City facilities;
- Ensuring that all buildings and facilities occupied by City employees have collection services in place to allow recycling of the following: mixed paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, glass bottles and jars, and #1 and #2 plastic bottles;
- Tracking and evaluating data on annual waste generation and recycling rates of City departments, as well as savings associated with avoided disposal costs, and revenue generated from waste recycling;
- Developing equipment and service specifications and contracts that support the City's waste reduction and recycling goals; and
- Ensuring that policies and procedures for disposition of surplus property maximize opportunities for reuse of materials both within City departments and by external parties.

The Director of Seattle Public Utilities shall be responsible for providing technical assistance and education to City departments on waste reduction and recycling issues related to Seattle's Solid Waste Plan.

The director of each City department shall be responsible for:

- Designating a recycling coordinator to promote recycling and waste reduction within the department and to serve as a liaison between the department and the City's Recycling Coordinator;
- Ensuring that recyclable paper, cardboard, aluminum, glass, plastic, green waste, and construction, demolition, and land-clearing waste are recycled or reused to the maximum extent practicable;
- Ensuring that any concrete, cement, or asphalt (as defined in SMC Section 3.18.902) generated in City street, bridge, drainage, or other public works projects, whether those projects are performed by the City or under contract with the City, is recycled or reused unless its quality or quantity preclude efficient recovery by a recycling facility;³ and
- Ensuring departmental implementation of other practicable waste reduction, composting, and recycling methods.

